



December 8, 2011

## FACT SHEET: EPA'S REVISED BOILER MACT RULE WILL PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO INDUSTRY

*Last week, the EPA released revised emissions limits for industrial boilers, which would impact **less than 1%** of boilers. Since the initial limits were proposed earlier this year, the EPA has worked with industry to increase flexibility by cutting the implementation cost of the rule in half, while preserving public health benefits. The revised proposal is expected to prevent up to 8,100 premature deaths and more than 52,000 asthma attacks annually, at a relatively low cost to the industry. Implementation of this safeguard would yield \$12 to \$30 worth of health benefit for every dollar spent.*

### THE PROPOSED AIR-QUALITY SAFEGUARDS ARE NARROW IN SCOPE AND ONLY TARGET THE BIGGEST POLLUTERS:

**Of The 1.5 Million Boilers In The U.S., Less Than 1% Would Be Affected By These Emission Limits:** Less than 1% of boilers would have to meet emission standards minimizing toxic pollutants. Most of these are large scale boilers located at industrial facilities. 86% of boilers are smaller in scale operating in neighborhood facilities like hospitals, churches and schools. These small scale boilers would not be subject to the emission standards established by these safeguards. [\[EPA\]](#)

### THE PROPOSED AIR-QUALITY SAFEGUARDS WILL YIELD MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ANNUAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND SPUR JOB GROWTH:

The EPA estimates that the rule will annually prevent up to 8,100 premature deaths, 5,100 heart attacks, and deaths, 5,100 heart attacks, and 52,000 cases of aggravated asthma. EPA estimates that Americans would receive \$12 to \$30 in health benefits for every dollar spent to meet the proposed standards. [\[EPA\]](#)

Estimated Annual Number of Adverse Health Effects Avoided	
Health Effect	# of Cases Avoided
Premature Deaths	8,100
Heart Attacks	5,100
Asthma Attacks	52,000

### EPA HAS WORKED WITH INDUSTRY AND CONGRESS TO EASE CONCERNS:

Revisions in the new rules reduce the compliance costs for reducing hazardous air pollutants by approximately 50 percent, while still meeting the requirements laid out in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. [\[EPA\]](#)

Based on feedback from the regulated community, the EPA proposed revisions to their final rule that: clarified the scope of biomass materials considered as traditional fuel under the proposed regulations, revised its emission limits for some regulated pollutants, and revised its tune-up schedule for small scale boilers which increases flexibility for the industry operators. [\[EPA\]](#)

"I am encouraged the EPA has listened to reasonable requests from Mainers and others and revised the solid waste rule to be more flexible." – [Sen. Olympia Snowe](#)

"The USW would like to commend EPA for all the hard work it has done to be responsive to our union's concerns with both the NHSM and Boiler MACT rules. We are in the process of assessing the changes, but look forward to continue working with the agency to address any further issues." – United Steel Workers International President [Leo W. Gerard](#).

“There appears to be nothing in [the] EPA proposals that cannot be handled in a timely and cost-effective way by the types of existing, state-of-the-art, technologically-advanced and fuel-flexible products and equipment supplied by the U.S. boiler manufacturing industry, in combination with innovatively-engineered applications... When finalized, these rules still hold a strong promise to create additional, high-paying skilled and unskilled domestic manufacturing jobs in the boiler and in associated industries – at a time when those jobs are sorely needed in communities across the country.” - [Randy Rawson, President and CEO of the American Boiler Manufacturers Assn.](#)

“We are pleased that the EPA’s revised standards look to achieve major public health benefits while further adjusting the rules to meet real world boiler operating conditions.” - [Joseph Seymour, Executive Director of the Biomass Thermal Energy Council \(BTEC\).](#)

“The new set of Boiler MACT and related rules set forth by the EPA are an important step toward a realistic and achievable boiler emissions mandate for the biomass industry. The changes indicate recognition by the EPA of the value of biomass, not only for the environment, but also for the economy. - [Bob Cleaves, Biomass Power Assn. President and CEO.](#)